

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 201530Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2253

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5362

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: THE LEFT AND PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

SUBJECT: PINT EG

1. DURING LAST WEEK EMBASSY HAS WELCOMED FIVE SENATORS TO CAIRO. EMBOFFS HAVE CONSEQUENTLY BEEN ABLE EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH MANY PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AT OFFICIAL CODEL FUNCTIONS.

2. WHAT IS CLEARLY ON ALL PARLIAMENTARIANS' MINDS THESE DAYS IS THE CHALLENGE WHICH LEFTIST ASU GROUP IS EXPECTED TO MOUNT AGAINST SITTING MEMBERS IN OCTOBER ELECTIONS. SEVERAL MEMBERS TOLD US THEIR HERETOFORE "SAFE SEATS" ARE NOW POTENTIALLY SO UNSAFE THAT THEY INTEND SPEND SUMMER CAMPAIGNING, FOREGOING USUAL LONG VACATION IN ALEXANDRIA. SEVERAL COMPLAINED ABOUT EXPENSE OF THIS UNUSUAL PROCEEDING, BUT FELT THEY MUST BEGIN WINE AND DINE THEIR CONSTITUENTS AS SOON AS SESSION ENDS IN LATE JUNE.

3. SECRET OF LEFT'S ABILITY SCARE INCUMBENTS SEEMS TO BE SIMPLY THAT LEFTISTS ARE WELL ORGANIZED AND FINANCED. WORD IS ONLY ONE LEFTIST WILL BE NOMINATED FOR EACH SEAT, SO AS TO CONSERVE AND ATTRACT ALL VOTES LEFT OF CENTER, INCLUDING NASSERISTS. WE HEAR LEFTIST ORGANIZERS ARE
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ALREADY DISTRIBUTING PAMPHLETS AND SPORTING SHINY NEW

BULLHORNS. ANOTHER PARLEMENTARIAN SAID LEFTISTS ARE REVIVING
OLD NASSERIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION THROUGHT THE PROVINCES.

4. SPEAKER MAR'I TOLD SENATOR MATHIAS LAST WEEK THAT
THE THREE ASU FORUMS WILL OPERATE AS PARTIES DURING
ELECTIONS. MAR'I CONFIRMED THAT THE LEFT IS GEARING UP FOR
MAJOR CHALLENGE TO INCUMBENTS IN BOTH URBAN AND RURAL
DISTRICTS. HE EXPLAINED, AS HAVE OTHER SOURCES CLOSE
TO SADAT, THAT A MAJOR PURPOSE BEHIND FORUM NOTION WAS
TO BRING LEFT OPPOSITION INTO THE OPEN. MAR'I SAID,
HOWEVER, THAT LEFTISTS UNDERSTAND THIS GOE STRATEGY
AND AS CONSEQUENCE MANY HAVE JOINED CENTRIST (GOVERNMENT)
FORUM IN ORDER NOT TO SHOW THEIR HAND. MAR' I SPECIFICALLY
STATED THAT SOVIETS ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN TURNING THREE
WEEK OLD LEFTIST MOVEMENT INTO EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN ORGANIZATION
BY PROVISION OF MONEY AND EQUIPMENT. (LXFTIST FORUM HAS
SIGNED UP ONLY THREE OF CURRENT ASSEMBLY MEMBERS). LIKE
MOST PARLIAMENTARIANS TO WHOM WE HAVE TALKED,
MAR'I BELIVES LEFTISTS WILL NOT SUCCEED AND THAT MOST EGYPTIANS
SUPPORT SADAT AND WILL VOTE FOR CENTRIST
GROUP LED BY PRIMIN SALIM.
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